

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission attended by Telephonic Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 881 2482 4568

<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Allyn Backus</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson:</b>	<b>Cheryl Kessel</b>
<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Nick Wegman</b>
	<b>Gail Worden</b>
	<b>Cynthia Malla</b>

**Town Staff:**  
**Parks and Recreation Manager**  
**Parks and Recreation Coordinator**

**Joni Westcott**  
**Chell Smart**

**AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Chairperson Backus.

**AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.

**AGENDA ITEM: REPORTS**

**CURRENT EVENTS-** A brief summary of current events. The Commission will not propose, discuss, deliberate or act on any legal matter in the summary.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT** – There was no Chairperson report.

**STAFF REPORT:** Manager Westcott noted that the Smelter Town Brewery has applied for a Special event for May 8<sup>th</sup> as a release party.

**SPECIAL INTEREST REPORTS-** A summary of information on topics of interest to the Commission. The Commission may discuss these items but will not take legal action on any matter listed.

**Special Interest Reports-** A summary of information on topics of interest to the Commission. The Commission may discuss these items but will not take legal action on any matter listed.

**Selna Mongini Park** – This item will return as an agenda item next month. The following updates were given:

- Barnabus Cain is updating the park plan
- The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant is being amended to refocus on the portion of the Selna-Mongini park that is owned by the Town of Clarkdale. The other portion of the park will remain on the plan but will not be included in the grant application due to it being ineligible because it is a leased property.

- The ballfield portion of the park is on the historic registry and so the new park plan will incorporate some original elements of the ballfield to honor the historic nature of the site.
- Anthony Caetano has been brought on to assist with grant writing by the Town. He will focus on the LWCF grant as well as other grants for the educational water feature at Selna Mongini Park. He has over 45 years of grant writing experience.
- Community partners have been brought onboard to help plan the water feature and other elements of the park plan.
- An outdoor classroom concept is being explored for the water feature element.
- The Town of Clarkdale is financially planning to support this project as well.

### **Programming-**

- **Welcoming Birds & Butterflies to Your Backyard – Workshop & Garden Tour**

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Workshop from 9am- 10:30am

June 5<sup>th</sup>- Garden Tour from 8am – 9:30

Join Master Gardener, Jim Mast for a two-part gardening workshop at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse in Clarkdale on May 7th and his garden/orchard on June 5th. 'Welcoming Birds and Butterflies to Your Backyard' will focus on techniques to attract the many species of birds and butterflies that live in Clarkdale. Learn who they are and how to create a beautiful, inviting habitat to have them flocking to your yard. RSVP on Sign Up Genius. Registration is limited to ten participants.

- **Matter of Balance Workshops Returning To Clark Memorial Clubhouse**  
**Every Tuesday/Thursday starting April 13<sup>th</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 11:00am**

This is an award-winning program designed to decrease falls for those 60+ who want to be active, remain independent, and have fun! This series is hosted by Yavapai County Community Health Services & the Town of Clarkdale. Physical distancing & additional safety measures will be enforced to protect participants. The class size will be limited to 10. The contact for the program is Melissa Garcia with YCCHS. Her phone number is 928-442-5966.

**Park Safety Evaluation-**All five parks were evaluated for safety on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Town has received the extensive report and will prioritize safety concerns to address going forward. Parks & Recreation has created a Capital Improvement Plan for playground safety and maintenance. This is a new element of the Parks & Recreation budget that will assist with addressing these items.

**Centerville Park:** New slide was installed on 4/5/21. Rigid lock box locks suffered some damage, possible vandalism. Public Works staff repaired and moved the locks to outside for easier accessibility.



**Recreation & Open Space Element-General Plan:** General Plan Committee has reviewed and approved with no changes the Recreation and Open Space Element portion of the GP. They will be taking the plan to Council in late April or May for review and approval.

**Copper Penny Park:** The developer is planning to install a fence to keep balls from rolling into the riprap ditch and is still exploring options. No other amendments will be made at this time. A community member reported that the bathroom has not been accessible lately and the developer has committed to resolving that issue.

**Verde River @ Clarkdale:**

Two new part time positions for Verde River Ambassadors have been posted. Two ambassadors will likely be needed during the busy weekend days as the weather warms up.

February Data:

- Total Outfitter Guided and Unguided trips: 17
- Outfitter permit fees collected: \$93.50
- Vehicles at Lower Tapco: 54
- Voluntary donations: \$220
- People at Lower TAPCO: 129

A kayak club has been promoting a visit of 90 people to Lower TAPCO on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The group has been contacted by Staff but has not responded to inquiries yet. They have been notified that this does qualify as a Special Event and they will need to complete an application.

**Verde River Ranger report:** Ranger Von Gausig reported that they removed 72 items of trash weighing 68 pounds in one day on the river. They communicated with some 30 boaters and helped several with boat inflation, instruction, PFDs, etc.

**Guide Training:** Scott Buckley from Clarkdale Kayak Company organized a Verde River Guide Training Seminar. Speakers included: Verde River Institute Director, Doug Von Gausig; Drake Meinke, Copper Art Museum; Verde Valley geologist, Allen Dotey; Jen Julian, Clarkdale PD; Bill Relyea, CKC Lead Guide; Craig and Brandy Walker, OAC. Topics included Verde River biology, copper mining in Clarkdale, geology of the Verde Valley, emergency response and extraction points, customer engagement and guide

expectations, and spirituality and healing in nature. Guides from all three permitted companies were in attendance as well as Town of Clarkdale River Ambassadors. The seminar was well attended and very informative.

Signage: A new sign with updated hours for Lower TAPCO Day Use Area has arrived and will be installed soon. New consistent hours will be *7am – 1 hour after sunset* once implemented on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES** – Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting March 10, 2021.

**Action: Approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held on March 10, 2021.**

**Motion: Commissioner Worden**

**Second: Commissioner Malla**

**Vote:**

Voting Member	Aye/Nay
Chairperson Allyn Backus	Aye
Vice Chairperson Cheryl Kessel	Aye
Commissioner Cynthia Malla	Aye
Commissioner Nick Wegman	Aye
Commissioner Gail Worden	Aye

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**AGENDA ITEM: 2021 CONCERTS IN THE PARK** – Discussion regarding Concerts in the Park planning updates.

Based on improving COVID-19 conditions, Town Council members have requested an earlier start for concerts than the Commission recently suggested. Staff is creating the schedule for a June 19<sup>th</sup> start. The following was shared by Westcott:

- Concerts will be scheduled in Town Park. Six (6) concerts are currently on the schedule, a seventh (7) may be added in September. New concert times to help support our local businesses: 6pm – 8pm.
- The Town will not enforce mask wearing and distancing but will promote the importance of following those safety measures via signage and announcements during the concert, as well as on publications.
- In order to minimize person to person contact there will be no 50/50 raffle.
- Additional restrooms and handwashing stations will be available, masks and hand sanitizer will also be available upon request.
- Two sponsors have committed to the \$2500 sponsorship level. Jen Griffin-State Farm/Humana
- The Town reserves the right to cancel concert series at any point that is deemed necessary.

**AGENDA ITEM: CLARKDALE-JEROME SCHOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN-** Discussion regarding community garden partnership with the Clarkdale Jerome School.

Commissioner Wegman provided an update on the progress of a community garden to be located on the  
*Parks and Recreation Minutes – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

Clarkdale Jerome School property and possible partnership opportunities:

- Volunteers who are not paid by the school cannot be on the campus due to COVID-19.
- Community volunteers tending to the garden will need to apply for a fingerprint clearance card unless they work during non-school hours.
- One or two volunteers per day would be needed for general maintenance.
- The program has already received funding from a grant, which will also support a culinary program.
- Student involvement will take place during science field trips to the garden location and participation in the culinary program.

Westcott asked whether this will be considered an actual 'community garden' or will it only allow for enough produce for the school culinary program and school families. Commissioner Wegman explained more of his vision:

- The 1000 square foot area is expected to produce more than enough for the school, allowing the space to be a true community garden with ample supply for those who are interested.
- A wire fence will be used to protect the garden, as well as a video camera (potentially) to deter vandalism.

Commissioner Wegman will keep the Commission informed on the future status of the garden plan.

**AGENDA ITEM: 2022 PARKS & RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN-** Work session to develop the 2022 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan.

A discussion was had regarding the current Parks & Recreation Vision and Mission statements as well as the new Town Council Vision and Mission statement. Commissioners all brought a Vision and Mission statement to share and discuss. These were combined to creating the following (still in development):

Final Vision Statement: **It is our vision to create a happy and healthy community where residents can live, learn and play together.**

Mission Statement (draft):

**Enhance the quality of life in Clarkdale by providing safe (beautiful) public spaces and recreational opportunities that promote and sustain our unique environment, resources, and history.**

**AGENDA ITEM: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Listing of items to appear on future agendas.

Fourth of July

Selma Mongini Park

**AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT**

***With no objection, meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.***

APPROVED:

---

Chairperson, Allyn Backus

SUBMITTED BY:

---

Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Chell Smart